

"With Jesus as our guide; we love, live and learn together."

Newsletter 10: Friday 30th January 2026

Dear Parents

I hope that you and your families have all had a good week.

Last Wednesday, we had an absolutely wonderful celebration of Mass with the Rite of Confirmation in our parish church. It was a very moving occasion and one of the most special moments in our pupils' lives. Thank you to Bishop David, Father Christopher and all who helped to make this celebration such a success.

In school, we would like to especially thank Mrs Kavanagh for all of her hard work 'behind the scenes' to organise the Mass and prepare the children. I would also like to give a special mention and thank you to all of the pupils in our school choir who came to sing so wonderfully.

Father Christopher has invited all of the pupils who were confirmed to join with our parish at mass this Sunday 1st February to give thanks for receiving Sacrament of Confirmation. Everyone is welcome.



Friday 13th February – Staff Training Day:

School will be closed to all pupils on this date – which is the last day of this half term.

The Wednesday Word:

Please do take time to read the 'Wednesday Word' with your child, which will be uploaded to the school website each week. [You can find it here!](#)

The Primary School Wednesday Word is an outreach project which shares Sunday's Gospel with all school families in a unique way. It is a weekly Gospel 'gift' from the school to the whole family.



Sacramental Dates for 2025-26:

Date:	Information:
Sunday 1 st February 2026	Y6 Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sacrament of Confirmation in church at 10.30am
Saturday 16 th May 2026	Y3 First Holy Communion Mass in church at 12.30pm



Number Facts of the Week:

At Holy Name, we place a strong emphasis on pupils learning their multiplication and division facts and recalling them quickly and confidently.

By the end of Year Four, all pupils are expected to know all multiplication and division facts up to 12×12 by heart.

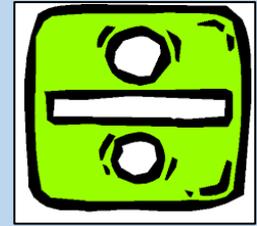
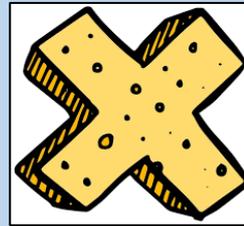
Each week, Miss Doody, our maths leader, will be setting a challenge. Be prepared - our class teachers will be testing you!

This week's multiplication and division facts are:

$$7 \times 6 = 42 \text{ or } 6 \times 7 = 42 \quad 42 \div 6 = 7 \text{ or } 42 \div 7 = 6$$

Next week's multiplication and division facts are:

$$12 \times 2 = 24 \text{ or } 2 \times 12 = 24 \quad 24 \div 2 = 12 \text{ or } 24 \div 12 = 2$$



Charitable Fundraising Update from Brushstrokes:

Brushstrokes are a charity who help families who are new to the Sandwell area who need support. In December, the Catholic School council organised a collection of items as part of our Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal.

We were overwhelmed with generosity and our whole school community put the Catholic Social Teaching principles of **preferential option** and **solidarity** into action.

Well done to all of our school community for making such a big difference!

Please see the email which we recently received below:

Dear Pupils of Holy Name Primary School

We would like to say a very big thank you to all of you for your wonderful food and toiletry donations to Brushstrokes.

Your generosity and kindness will make a real difference to people in our local community who need a little extra help. Because of your support, families and individuals will have food on their tables, and they will know that others care about them.

What makes your donations even more special is that they come from young people who have chosen to look out for others. By showing compassion, kindness, and a willingness to help, you are already helping to make your community a better place. These small acts of care add up to something truly powerful. You should all be very proud of what you have achieved together. You are showing that no matter your age, you can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

Thank you again for thinking of others and for being such a brilliant example of caring and community spirit.

With our very best wishes

Brushstrokes



CAFOD World Gifts Update:

Our pupils really did make a difference during Advent and managed to raise an incredible **£531.11** for CAFOD as a result of their bake sale, nativity collections and Christmas card replacements.

As a result of phenomenal fundraising, the Catholic Council chose to spend the money on the following gifts which will be sent to people within our Global family:



- **An Outreach Team** – delivering essential healthcare services.
- **A Marvellous Moo Cow** – improving nutrition and supporting farmland.
- **Send a Child to School** – providing access to education.
- **A Vegetable Garden** – helping families grow their own food.
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Well done to our whole school community for making such a big impact!

Baptism Role Play:

In Foundation stage we have been learning about Baptism. We know that when we are baptised the priest pours Holy Water onto our heads. We learned that when we take part in this special sacrament, we become part of God's family and that we are given a Christian name. We took it in turns to "baptise" a doll in our classroom water tray.



Y6 visit from Bishop David:

On Wednesday 19th January, Y6 were treated to a special visit from Bishop David and Father Christopher. Our pupils were invited to ask questions about vocations, Bishop David's appointment to become a Bishop and the Sacrament of Confirmation. In addition to this, both Bishop David and Father Christopher shared their own faith journey to Confirmation with the children.



Foundation Stage Stay and Play:

All of our Foundation parents are invited to a play and stay session on **Thursday 12th February** at **9.00am**. There will be an opportunity to play with some of the 'Toy Library'" bags which we will be sending out very soon.

Please sign up here: [Foundation Stay and Play Form](#)



School Places Available:

We have school places available in a number of classes in school.

Please contact the school office or apply for a place via Sandwell LA:

[Apply for a school place | Sandwell Council](#)

Reception - Y6 Reading Challenges:

Our Reading Challenges are a great way to ensure your child is reading a range of texts which are age-related (with some challenging texts too!)

To make it super easy to participate, we have uploaded a direct form link accessible on your Marvellous Me accounts. The form is called 'YR RC' / 'Y1 RC' etc and they are also available on the school website – just click:

'Curriculum and Gallery > Reading' and scroll down to 'Reading Challenge'.

Or click on the links here: [Y6](#) [Y5](#) [Y4](#) [Y3](#) [Y2](#) [Y1](#) [Reception](#)

Every time your child reads a book from the specially selected list, they just need to complete an entry on the form and they will automatically be entered into a prize draw!

**The more books that you read the more chances that you have to win!
The next prize draw will be on Friday 27th February**

Infants - Celebration of Mass:

In line with the changes to the national prayer and liturgy directory (Catholic Bishops Conference) we have now made a few changes to our infants' masses. The readings of the day should be 'proclaimed clearly'; therefore, pupils in Key Stage One and EYFS will focus on listening whilst the Holy scripture is read by adults. Our pupils will continue to read the prayers of the faithful (bidding prayers) and help with the offertory procession.

School Masses:

All **parents and parishioners** are warmly invited to all of our school masses in **school** at **9.15am** or in **church** at **10.00am**.

Date:	Information:
Wednesday 4 th February	Y4 and Y5 joining the parish for mass in church at 10.00am
Wednesday 11 th February	Infants' mass in school hall at 9.15am

Diary Dates:

Date:	Information:
Tuesday 3 rd February	Y2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 5 th February	Y1 & Rec Multi-skills club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 6 th February	Celebration Assembly (Gifts from God) in the school hall at 9.05am (all parents welcome)
Tuesday 10 th February	Y2 Gymnastics Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Thursday 12 th February	Foundation Class - stay and play at 9.00am Y1 & Rec Multi-skills club 3.15 – 4.15pm KS2 French Club 3.15 – 4.15pm
Friday 13 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS – STAFF TRAINING DAY
Half Term Break:	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February
Monday 23 rd February	First day of second half of spring term – all pupils back in school.

Yours sincerely

A. Neenan

Mr A.G. Neenan

Headteacher

One of the precepts of being a Catholic is to attend Sunday Mass (or the vigil Mass for Sunday) every week and on all Holy Days of Obligation.

This weekly commitment gives us the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord which is why Sundays are known as the Lord's day.

Mass at Holy Name Church:

Saturday 12.30pm

**Sunday 8.30am
and 10.30am**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

In this Sunday's gospel reading Jesus teaches his disciples about the way he would like people to be treated and how he sees some types of people as extra special. He says that they will be happy or blessed.



What kinds of people did Jesus say would be happy? And what will happen to them?

When will this happen? Will this only happen in heaven or could it happen here on earth as well?

We are all part of one global family and we are called by God to care for the other members of that family, wherever they are in the world. We can help Jesus' words to come alive today.

What could you do for someone who is sad?

What could you do for someone who is hungry or thirsty?

What could you do for people who are poor?

What could you do for someone who is afraid to stand up for what they believe in?

By doing all those things we will be truly following Jesus. We can help to make the words that he spoke to his disciples a reality.

Our Catholic Mission:

What will you do this week to help Jesus' words to come alive in our world?

Prayer:

God of mercy, open our hearts to listen to what Jesus tells us.
Help us to reach out to others who are poor, sad, or frightened
and try to make their lives blessed.
Amen.

Reflection taken from CAFOD Children's Liturgy